

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for cleaning, comprising:

a handle;

a head connected to the handle, having ~~;~~ and a stand portion;

wherein the stand portion ~~incorporated with~~ of the head ~~;~~ is for selectively supporting the system in upright position.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:

an implement connected to the head;

~~whereas~~ wherein the stand portion is selectively retractable ~~in conjunction~~ with the head to ~~selectively~~ retain the stand portion from interference with the implement.

Claim 3 (original): A broom having a handle, a head connected to the handle, and bristles connected to the head, comprising:

a support slidably engaged with the head;

wherein the support is selectively extendable from the head beyond an extent of the bristles.

Claim 4 (original): The broom of claim 3, wherein the broom is storable in upright freestanding position on the support.

Claim 5 (original): The broom of claim 4, wherein the bristles do not bear any force in supporting the broom in upright freestanding position.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An implement comprising:
a an elongate handle having an end;
a head slidably connected to the handle adjacent the end; and
a feature connected to the head at the end handle; ; and comprising:
a stand connected to the handle for retaining the implement with the feature suspended, by sliding the head away from the end.

Claim 7 (original): The implement of claim 6, wherein the stand includes at least three points of contact with a planar surface.

Claim 8 (original): The implement of claim 6, wherein the stand is incorporated with the implement, and can be retracted or extended to provide retention of the implement in upright freestanding position.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of storing a broom having a broom head connected to bristles, comprising the steps of:

fixing a stand to the broom head;

locating the broom on the stand, with bristles of the broom suspended
from providing any significant support.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the step of locating
maintains the broom in an upright freestanding position.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the method further
comprises the steps of:

retracting the stand when the broom is employed for cleaning; and
extending the stand prior to the step of locating.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the steps of retracting and
extending are effected by slidable movement of the stand with respect to the head.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the step of locating
includes placing the stand on a planar floor.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A broom comprising:

a handle;
bristles connected to the handle; and
a guard for substantially surrounding and shielding the bristles.

Claim 15 (original): The broom of claim 14, wherein the bristles are fixably

connected to the handle and the guard is slidably engageable with respect to the handle and the bristles to shield or unshield the bristles.

Claim 16 (original): The broom of claim 15, wherein the guard forms a stand for the broom when slidably shielding the bristles.

Claim 17 (original): The broom of claim 16, wherein the guard prevents forceable contact of the bristles with a surface on which the guard is located as the stand.

Claim 18 (original): The broom of claim 17, wherein the guard is a shroud substantially surrounding the bristles.

Claim 19 (original): The broom of claim 17, wherein the guard is a projection that extends beyond the bristles when the guard is located as the stand.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of storing a broom having bristles, comprising the steps of:

standing the broom on a guard that protrudes beyond and surrounds the bristles of the broom and supports the broom in upright freestanding position without supporting force on the bristles.